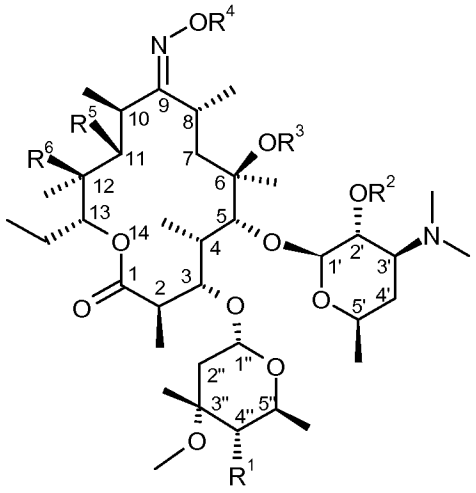
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A compound of ~~general~~ formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^1 is $OC(O)(CH_2)_mXR^7$;

R^2 is hydrogen or a hydroxyl protecting group;

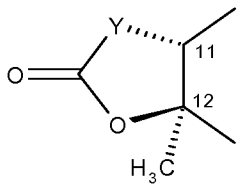
R^3 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{3-6}alkenyl optionally substituted by 9 to 10 membered fused bicyclic heteroaryl;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group, wherein the alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl and heterocyclic groups are optionally substituted by up to three substituents independently selected from optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group, optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl, OR^8, $S(O)_nR^8$, NR^8R^9, $CONR^8R^9$, halogen and cyano;

R^5 is hydroxy, C_{3-6}alkenyloxy optionally substituted by 9 to 10 membered fused bicyclic heteroaryl, or $O(CH_2)_pO(CH_2)_qR^{10}$,

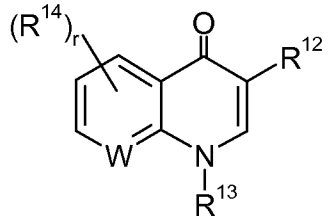
R^6 is hydroxy, or

R^5 and R^6 taken together with the intervening atoms form a cyclic group having the following structure:

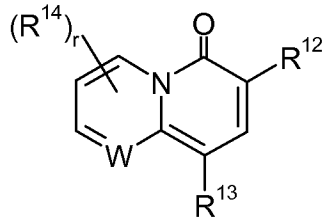


wherein Y is a bivalent radical selected from -CH_2-, -CH(CN)-, -O-, -N(R^{11})- and -CH(SR^{11})-;

R^7 is a heterocyclic group having the following structure:



or



R^8 and R^9 are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{10} is hydrogen or NR^8R^9;

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted by a group selected from optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl and optionally substituted 9 to 10 membered fused bicyclic heteroaryl;

R^{12} is hydrogen, C(O)OR^{15}, C(O)NHR^{15} or C(O)CH_2NO_2;

R^{13} is ~~hydrogen,~~ C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, or optionally substituted phenyl or benzyl;

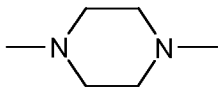
R^{14} is halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}thioalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, NH_2, NH(C_{1-4}alkyl) or N(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$;

R^{15} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three groups independently selected from halogen, C_{1-4}alkoxy, OC(O)C_{1-4}alkyl and OC(O)OC_{1-4}alkyl;

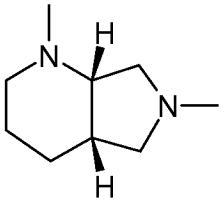
R^{16} is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, optionally substituted phenyl or benzyl, acetyl or benzoyl;

R^{17} is hydrogen or R^{14}, or R^{17} and R^{13} are linked to form the bivalent radical $-O(CH_2)_2-$ or $-(CH_2)_v-$;

X is $-U(CH_2)_sZ-$ or X is a group selected from:



and



U and Z independently are a divalent radical selected from $-N(R^{16})-$, -O-, $-S(O)_t-$, $-N(R^{16})C(O)-$, $-C(O)N(R^{16})-$ and $-N[C(O)R^{16}]-$;

W is CR^{17} or a nitrogen atom;

m is 0 or an integer from 1 to 5;

n, r and t are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;

p and q are each independently selected from 1 to 6 ;

s is an integer from 2 to 8; and

v is 2 or 3;

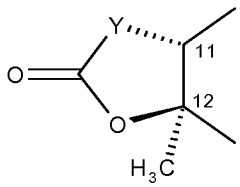
~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivatives~~ salt thereof.

2. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is hydrogen; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^3 is hydrogen; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

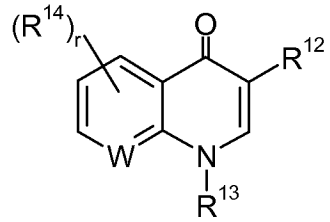
4. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^4 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three substituents independently selected from optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl, OR^8, $S(O)_nR^8$, NR^8R^9, halogen and cyano; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Currently amended): A compound according to wherein R^5 is hydroxy or $O(CH_2)_pO(CH_2)_qR^{10}$ and R^6 is hydroxy, or R^5 and R^6 taken together with the intervening atoms form a cyclic group having the following structure:



wherein Y is the bivalent radical -O-; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 5 wherein R^7 is a heterocyclic group having the following structure:



wherein W is CR^{17} where R^{17} is hydrogen; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 6 wherein X is $-U(CH_2)_sZ-$ wherein U and Z are independently -NH- or -O-; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended): A compound selected from:
4"-*O*-[3-[[2-[(3-carboxy-7-chloro-1-cyclopropyl-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-6-quinolinyl) amino]ethyl]amino]propionyl]-11-*O*-(2-dimethylaminoethoxymethyl)-(9E)-methoximino erythromycin A,
4"-*O*-[3-[[2-[(3-carboxy-7-chloro-1-cyclopropyl-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-6-quinolinyl) amino]ethyl]amino]propionyl]-11,12-carbonate-(9E)-*O*-(2-propyl)oximino erythromycin A,

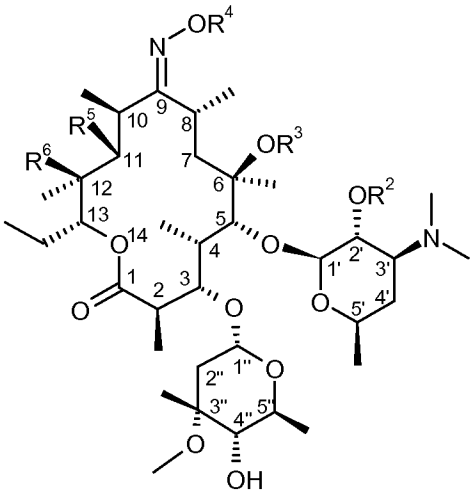
4"-*O*-[3-[[2-[(3-carboxy-7-chloro-1-cyclopropyl-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-6-quinolinyl) amino]ethyl]amino]propionyl]-11,12-carbonate-(9E)-methoximino erythromycin A, and

4"-*O*-[3-[[2-[(3-carboxy-7-chloro-1-cyclopropyl-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-6-quinolinyl) amino]ethyl]amino]propionyl]-11,12-carbonate-(9E)-*O*-(ethoxymethyl)oximino erythromycin A,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof.

10. (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1 which comprises:

a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

$HOC(O)(CH_2)_mX^aR^{7a}$

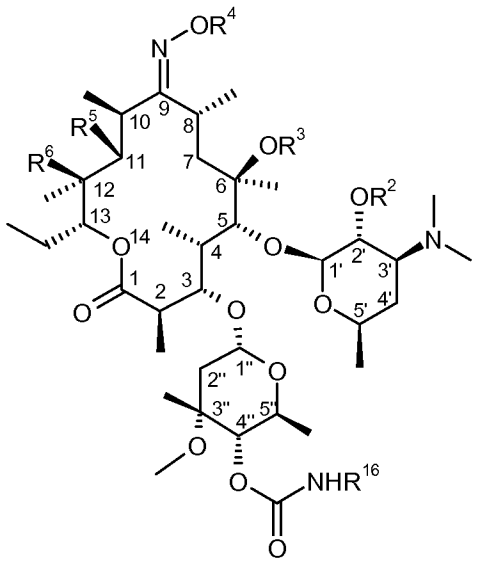
(III)

with a suitable activated derivative of the acid (III), wherein m is an integer 1 to 5, X^a and R^{7a} are X and R^7 as defined in claim 1 or ~~groups convertible to~~ protected forms of X and R^7, to produce a compound of formula (I) wherein m is an integer 1 to 5;

b) reacting a compound of formula (II), in which the 4" hydroxy is suitably activated, with a compound of formula X^aR^{7a} (IV), wherein R^{7a} is R^{7a} as defined in claim 1 or a protected form of ~~group convertible to~~ R^7, s and Z have the meanings defined in claim 1 and X^a is $-U(CH_2)_sZ-$ or a protected form of ~~group convertible to~~ $-U(CH_2)_sZ-$, in which U is a group

selected from selected from -N(R^{16})- , -O-, and -S-, to produce a compound of formula (I) wherein m is 0 and U is a group selected from -N(R^{16})- , -O- and -S-;

c) reacting a compound of formula (V)

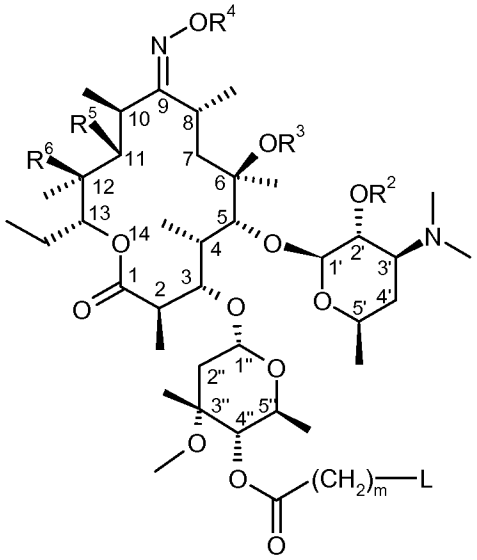


(V)

wherein R^{16} has the meaning defined in claim 1 with a suitable activated derivative of the carboxylic acid HOC(O)(CH_2)$_s$$Z^aR^{7a}$ (VI), wherein R^{7a} and Z^a are R^7 and Z as defined in claim 1 or protected forms of ~~groups convertible to~~ R^7 and Z, to produce a compound of formula (I) wherein m is 0 and U is -N(R^{16})C(O)-;

d) reacting a compound of formula (II) with a suitably activated derivative of the carboxylic acid HOC(O)C(O)N(R^{16})(CH_2)$_s$$Z^aR^{7a}$ (VIIb) to produce a compound of formula (I) wherein m is 0 and U is –C(O)N(R^{16})-;

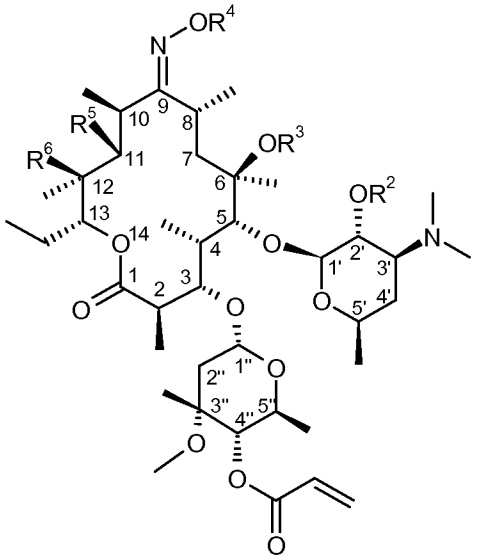
e) reacting a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

with a compound of formula X^aR^{7a} (IV), wherein R^{7a} and X^a are R^7 and X as defined in claim 1 or ~~groups convertible to~~ protected forms of R^7 and X, U is a group selected from -$N(R^{16})$-, -O- and -S-, and L is suitable leaving group, to produce a compound of formula (I) wherein m is 1 to 5 and U is a group selected from -$N(R^{16})$-, -O- and -S-; or

f) reacting a compound of formula (IX), with a compound of formula X^aR^{7a} (IV),



(IX)

wherein R^{7a} and X^a are R^7 and X as defined in claim 1 or ~~groups convertible to~~ protected forms of R^7 and X, U is a group selected from -N(R^{16})-, -O- and -S-, to produce a compound of formula (I) wherein m is 2 and U is a group selected from -N(R^{16})-, -O- and -S-;

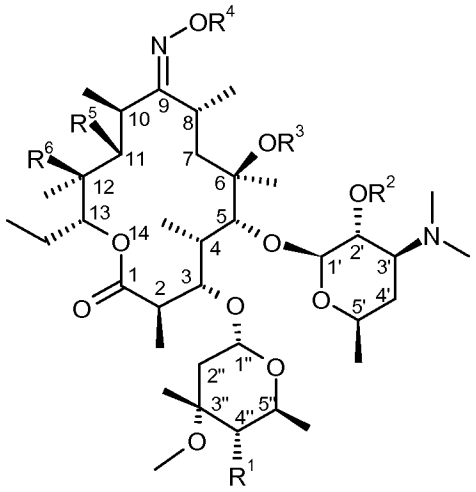
and thereafter, if required, subjecting the resulting compound to one or more of the following operations:
i) removal of the protecting group R^2,
ii) conversion of X^aR^{7a} or Z^aR^{7a} to XR^7 or ZR^7 respectively, and
iii) conversion of the resultant compound of formula (I) into a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

15. (Currently amended): A method for the treatment of the human or non-human animal body to combat a bacterial ~~microbial~~ infection comprising administration of an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof.

16. (Currently amended): A compound of ~~general~~ formula (IA)



(IA)

wherein

R^1 is $OC(O)(CH_2)_mXR^7$;

R^2 is hydrogen or a hydroxyl protecting group;

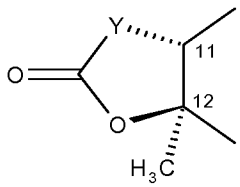
R^3 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{3-6}alkenyl optionally substituted by 9 to 10 membered fused bicyclic heteroaryl;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group, wherein the alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl and heterocyclic groups are optionally substituted by up to three substituents independently selected from optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic group, optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl, OR^8, $S(O)_nR^8$, NR^8R^9, $CONR^8R^9$, halogen and cyano;

R^5 is hydroxy, C_{3-6}alkenyloxy optionally substituted by 9 to 10 membered fused bicyclic heteroaryl or $O(CH_2)_pO(CH_2)_qR^{10}$,

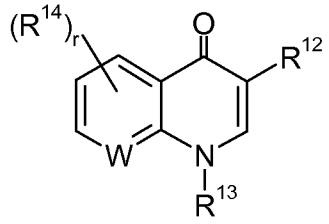
R^6 is hydroxy, or

R^5 and R^6 taken together with the intervening atoms form a cyclic group having the following structure:

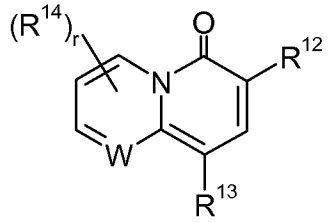


wherein Y is a bivalent radical selected from $-CH_2-$, -CH(CN)-, -O-, $-N(R^{11})-$ and $-CH(SR_8)-$;

R^7 is a heterocyclic group having the following structure:



or



R^8 and R^9 are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{10} is hydrogen or NR^8R^9;

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl substituted by a group selected from optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl and optionally substituted 9 to 10 membered fused bicyclic heteroaryl;

R^{12} is hydrogen, $C(O)OR^{15}$, $C(O)NHR^{15}$ or $C(O)CH_2NO_2$;

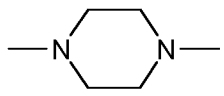
R^{13} is ~~hydrogen,~~ C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, or optionally substituted phenyl or benzyl;

R^{14} is halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}thioalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, NH_2, $NH(C_{1-4}alkyl)$ or $N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$;

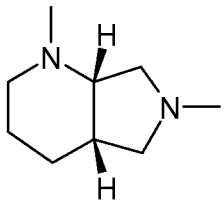
R^{15} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{16} is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, optionally substituted phenyl or benzyl, acetyl or benzoyl;

X is $-U(CH_2)_sZ-$ or X is a group selected from:



and



U and Z independently are a divalent radical selected from -N(R^{16})-, -O-, -S(O)$_t$- , -N(R^{16})C(O)-, -C(O)N(R^{16})- and -N[C(O)R^{16}]-;

W is a carbon or a nitrogen atom;

m is 0 or an integer from 1 to 5;

n, r and t are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;

p and q are each independently selected from 1 and 2; and

s is an integer from 2 to 8;

~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts and solvates~~ salt thereof.